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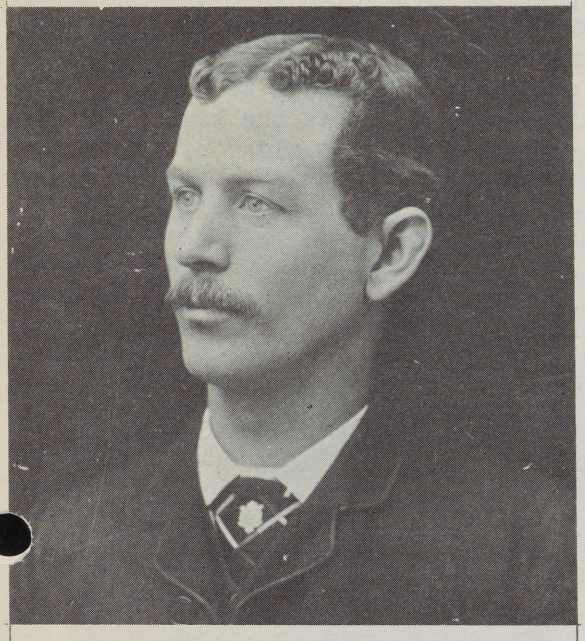


John G. Smale - July 1890

Mrs. Elizabeth Dempsey Smale - December 1890

JOHN GERRARD SMALE: EARLY MADERA COUNTY EDUCATOR

INTRODUCTION

The history of Madera County has been ably presented in the columns of the Madera County Historian, with articles featuring the economic and political growth of this interesting area; and with considerable attention devoted to individuals and families. It seems appropriate therefore to explore some of the early day features of education in Madera County, and for this purpose a biographical study is herewith presented of John Gerrard Smale, known to many generations of grade school pupils as their teacher; and known to many persons in Madera County as "J. G.," a longtime resident of Raymond. He came to the county in 1896, just three years after its formation as a separate political entity, and served in various school districts until his official retirement in January 1916. For some twenty years his influence on his pupils was felt directly, and there are a few still living who can recall the days they spent in his classroom.

A biographical sketch of this type can furnish only the major clues to educational systems and practices within the first two decades of the twentieth century. Perhaps a more extensive analysis of this topic could furnish the theme for a future issue of The Historian. Also, insofar as the professional career and work of J. G. Smale can be considered typical of the "school marm" of the early 1900's, then he can be said to represent a whole host of his colleagues whose biographies may never be written. And, of course, he would not merit a biography were he not different from the others in many ways,

as they were from him.

I - CANADA

John Gerrard Smale was born in Canada, on a farm near Hamilton. He often described the location of his birthplace in this way: "I was born forty miles from Niagara Falls and was never there!" He was one of seven children born to Robert and Elizabeth Grummett Smale. The family background was English, and his grandfather, Jonas Smale, migrated from the Torrington area in Devon, not too far from Exeter. The Grummett family likewise came from English roots. John was orphaned by the death of his father and mother when he was but a boy; and he took up residence with an uncle of his future wife, Elizabeth Dempsey, on the Samuel Essery farm near Centralia in Western Ontario. In spite of a lack of economic opportunity, young Smale determined to get an education and become a teacher. In 1882 he was admitted to high school in Goderich, an important metropolis in Huron County. He attended Normal School in Toronto and received his basic teaching certificate in 1884. Altogether he taught in Ontario schools until the middle of 1887. His service was interrupted by illness, and on recommendation of his physician he decided to come to California. Fortunately an uncle, John Grummett, was visiting in Canada at the time, and John was persuaded to accompany him to his ranch near Grayson on the "west side" of the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County. Here he sojourned until he regained his health, and then he took the county examinations to qualify for an elementary or Grammar School Course Certificate; this document was awarded in June 1888. In January 1892 he was granted a High School Certificate; many "grade schools" in this period comprised nine instead of only eight grades.

II - STANISLAUS COUNTY

Mr. Smale was a resident of Stanislaus County from 1887 until mid-year 1896. During his period of service in this area he taught in the Empire, Salida, and Rising Sun districts, as well as in Modesto, the county seat. His professional proficiency was shown in part by his certification from the grade school to the Educational Diploma. He earned a Life Diploma with High Honors after leaving Stanislaus County; this document was awarded on January 4, 1897.

In addition to making a successful beginning at his chosen profession, teaching, while in Stanislaus County Mr. Smale passed three other important milestones. One of these was his marriage to Elizabeth Dempsey of Exeter, Ontario. In the winter of 1891 she came west, and vividly describes this momentous, but cold journey to the land of sunshine. It was no compliment to San Francisco's December weather when she arrived that it was the coldest place she had ever been in; and she a lifelong resident of Western Ontario, to boot! The couple were married in Hayward, on December 26, 1891. Hopefully they had expected to find in Hayward a minister whom they knew from Canadian days. Unfortunately he had but recently moved away, so they had to be content with a substitute. Nevertheless, the marriage contract was a permanent, till-death-us-do part obligation, and they followed it to the letter.

Mrs. Smale often told of their living for a time at a Modesto hostelry operated by the Archambault family. The Chinese cook fascinated her, since she had had no previous contact with Orientals; it would please her that he would fix special delicacies for "the teachee's girl." Second in her fascination was a parrot which seemed to have a wide, but wholesome, vocabulary.

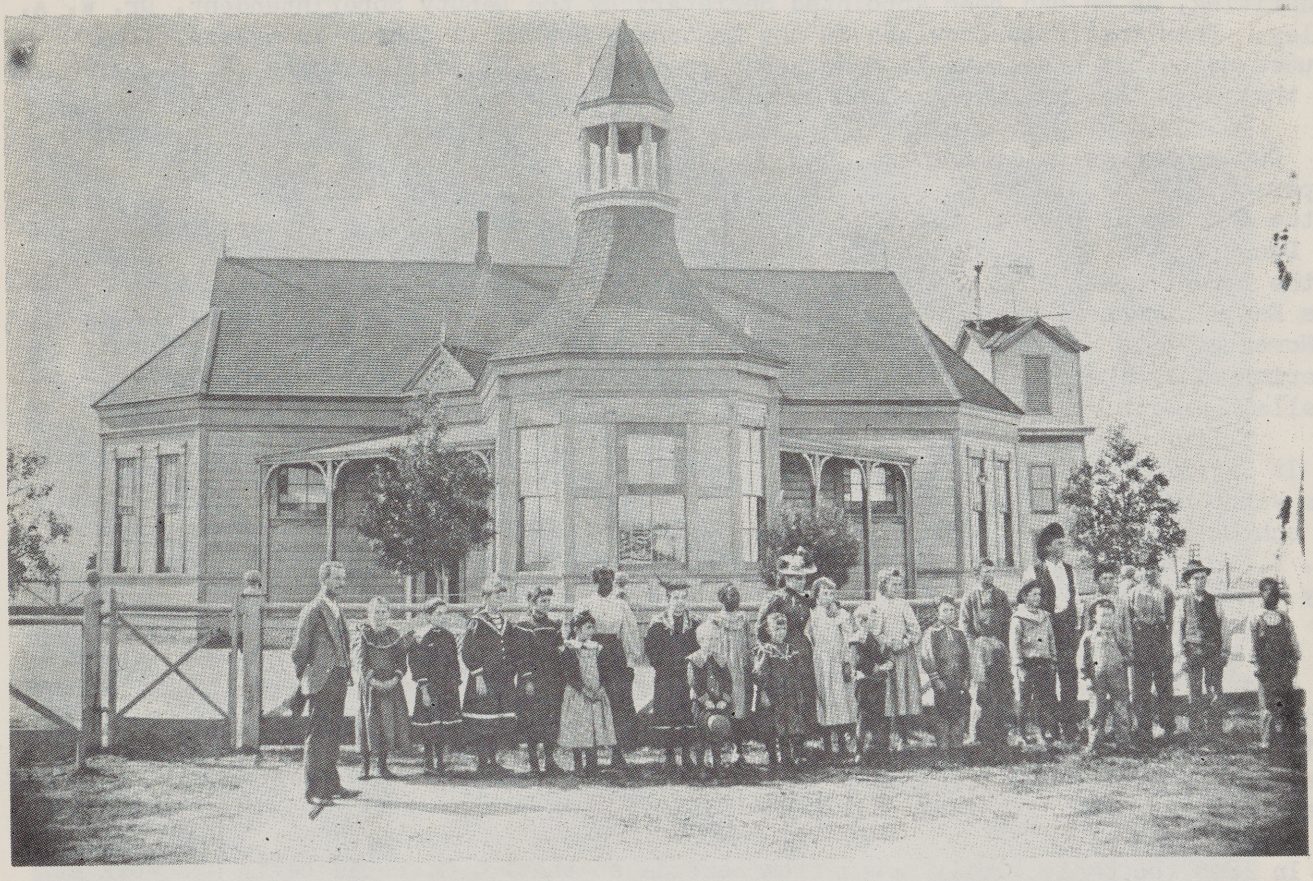
Later the couple moved to Salida and here came under the fine neighborly influence of the L. A. Finney family. Several of the Finney children whom Mr. Smale taught went on to distinguished careers in their own right. Erwin Finney became a county supervisor; while Dr. Mabel Finney Bennett taught for a time in Madera High School before earning a medical degree. Dr. Mabel Finney Bennett established a reputation as a pediatrician. Three of the Smale children were born in Stanislaus County - C. Clair, Queene Maude, and Mary Elizabeth. So an important milestone, that of marrying and starting a family, was added

to Mr. Smale's beginning a teaching career in his adopted land.

Another major milestone was Mr. Smale's acquisition of American citizenship by the naturalization process. He filed his Declaration of Intention on February 27, 1893, and became a citizen "in open court" on March 30, 1895. His two witnesses were close friends, L. A. Finney and J. A. Wagener. The latter will be remembered by Stanislaus County residents as a teacher and Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Smale also became a citizen by her husband's naturalization, as the law then provided.

Finally while in Stanislaus County Mr. Smale used up his homestead right. He took land somewhere near the foot of Mt. Oso in the Coast Range, described as "160 acres, the NE quarter of Sec. 32 in Twp. 5S, Range 6 East of Mt. Diablo Meridian." Evidently little use was made of this, and he did not actually "prove up" on the grant until December 27, 1898. By this time he had moved to Madera County.

III - MADERA COUNTY EDUCATOR: THE RECORD



The Berenda School, about 1897/1898. J. G. Smale, Teacher. Pupils identified as follows, left to right: Margaret O'Meara, Ida Mendoza, Irene Dwyer, Jane Dwyer, Grace Loinaz, Annie Brown, Mary Mendoza, Edmond Fale, Adeline Brown, _____, Amelia Loinaz, Luella Crow, John Fale, Stella Buchenau, Henry O'Meara, Paul Loinaz, Clarence Brown, Herbert Buchenau, Bert Dwyer, George Dwyer, Michael O'Meara, Joe Mendoza, Augustine Mendoza, Sylvester Brown. (One pupil remains unidentified.)

J. G. Smale came to Madera County in September, 1896. From that date until he became Postmaster at Raymond, March 9, 1915, he devoted his years to teaching in Madera County schools. There was one exception, for in the spring of 1912 he did substitute teaching at Canyon School, near Tancred in Yolo County. By years and schools, his record

of service was as follows:

1896 - 1899	Berenda	1908 - 1909	Talbot
1899 - 1905	Knowles ("Quarry School")	1909 - 1911	Hawkins
1905 - 1907	Fresno (now Oakhurst)	1911 - 1912	Yolo County: Feb-May 191
1907 - 1908	Daulton	1912 - 1915	Fresno (now Oakhurst)

Although his active teaching career ended in 1915, he did not actually achieve status under the then-new California State Teachers' Retirement System until January 1, 1916. In this system he held Number 402, which shows him to be one of the very early retirees in this State.

The years at Berenda appear to have been spent not only in teaching some twenty-five pupils in the school, but also in attaining acquaintance with professional colleagues and status in the teaching profession. An excellent example of this is discernable in the Teachers' Institute Minutes for the meetings held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18, 19 and 20, 1897. Incidentally these were all-day sessions: morning, afternoon, and evening. The particular minutes in question were written entirely in Mr. Smale's handwriting, as he had been appointed Secretary by the Deputy Superintendent, Dr. W. A. Finley. This Institute convened in the Centenary Methodist Church in Madera. The minutes note that a welcome to Madera was presented by District Attorney W. H. Larew, and that J. G. Smale "responded on behalf of the teachers."

During the years at Berenda, the county school administration underwent a change in personnel. Mr. B. A. Hawkins, who was County Superintendent of Schools, was listed as the teacher at Berenda for the years 1893 - 1895. The Teachers' Institute Minutes for December 19, 1898 indicate that Dr. W. A. Finley had succeeded to the position due to the recent death of Mr. Hawkins. The Superintendent-Elect was announced also as Miss Estella Bagnelle, who served in the position until the election of Craig Cunningham in November 1910 and his accession to the office in January, 1911. Thus the County Superintendents under whom Mr. Smale served were: B. A. Hawkins, Dr. W. A. Finley, Estella Bagnelle, and Craig Cunningham.

It is surmised that the Trustees of the Berenda District were H. A. Buchenau, John Vignolo, and Henry D. Crow to whom the famous Henry Miller conveyed real property for school purposes, in 1894. Guy Crow has described this transaction in The Historian, Vol. V, No. 2, April 1965. Regrettably the records relating to school officers are very sparse for the period.

Two good photos of the Berenda school and its personnel survive, and are found in the offices of the Madera County Historical Society. The one presented herewith, and used in the issue described above, did not include previously an identification of the pupils. Through the courtesy of Mr. Sylvester Brown and Mr. Michael O'Meara the identifications can now be made with reasonable assurance, although they do not agree in every case. Of the Smale children, only Robert A. was born in Berenda.

In 1899 the Smale family moved from Berenda so that J. G. could begin his work at Knowles School. Commonly known in that area as the "Quarry School," the building was situated near both the Knowles and McGilvray granite quarries, and the pupils generally were children of men employed by these firms. Mr. Smale taught here for six years, through the school year of 1905.

The Smale family never lived in the quarry area at all. Perhaps one reason why the move was made was the attraction of land available for farming. Hence Raymond became the family home and eventually a ranch was purchased near this community. At first the family lived in a house not far from the Raymond school, and known as the "Underwood place." Then for a time the George Footman ranch was rented, followed by a move to the neighboring ranch of George W. Jones, Meanwhile, a bargain was struck with the George Footmans and on

November 9, 1908, a sale of the property was consummated, the "Footman place" becoming the Smale ranch. The property was described as follows: "The East Half of the North West quarter of Section Seventeen, and the South East quarter of the South West quarter of Section Eight in Township Eight South of Range Nineteen East Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian, containing one hundred and twenty acres, more or less."

The original purchase indenture shows a "consideration of the sum of $100 in gold coin of the United States paid in hand." Nevertheless Gerald Smale, a witness to the transaction, recalls that the total price was $600, with gold coin in the amount of $250, the remainder in gold certificates actually paid for the 120 acre property. This land, and the buildings on it, were in effect to remain the Smale home until the 1920's, when the family moved to other areas. Subsequent purchases from other owners added 360 acres to the above, making the ranch finally a 480 acre establishment. Thus Mr. Smale, the teacher, became a part-time farmer. The entire holding was sold on January 2, 1941, to William F. and Emma J. Footman. William was a nephew of the George Footman from whom the original 120 acres had been purchased. It was on the Footman place that the two youngest Smale children were born: G. O. "Fritz" and John G., Jr.

The Knowles, or "Quarry" School, 1904. J. G. Smale, teacher. The identifiable pupils are: Roberta (Ruperta?) Acosta, Lizzie Webber, Agnes Stephens, Lena Webber, Fay Isham, Walter Bisson, Charley Bisson, Frankie Krebs, Carl Johnson, Angela Comini, Bob Smale, Eddie Cavellini, Bobby Roddock, Harold Stevens, Louis Zorzi, Wallace Stephens, Helen Krebs, Raymond Bisson, Johnny Comini, Willie Roddock, Charley Cavellini, Clair Smale, Douglas Campbell, Howard Campbell, Josie Webber, Walter Scacchi, Jimmie Mann, Charley Krebs, Queene Smale, Raymond Williams, Italia Comini, Tottie Smale, Rose Zorzi, Annie Cavellini, Elsie Ray, Edna Bisson, Tommy Comini, Clarence Krebs, Eddie Williams. Two pupils are not identified. (Photo and identifications courtesy of Mrs. H. D. Johnson)

At the time Mr. Smale entered upon his duties at Knowles School, the trustees were Robert T. Roddock, Clerk, James G. Kane, and Walter J. Bisson. As noted previously, Miss Estella Bagnelle had been elected County Superintendent of Schools. The 1904 photograph gives a good idea of the pupils enrolled at the time; a reader cannot help noticing the prevalence of Scottish and Italian names among the identifications. A large number of the stone-cutters employed at the quarries were Scotsmen or Italians, and their children were of course enrolled in the school. Actually this circumstance was related to an interesting educational "experiment" at Knowles School. After the regular school hours, Mr. Smale remained and taught "Conversational and Written English" to some twenty-five men of Italian extraction. This was tried out for two years (1904-1905); the writer has no information about the success of this educational innovation, but suffice it to say that it must have preceded by a number of years what are now called "Americanization" or "Citizenship for Foreigners" and similar courses, generally offered in regularly organized Adult Education classes. These classes seem to have terminated when Mr. Smale left Knowles in the fall of 1905.

Although he taught at the Knowles School, Mr. Smale's home interests were at Raymond. He chose not to teach there, believing it better to live in one place and work in another. In the first decade of the twentieth century Raymond was a lively, robust and active foothill community. Apart from the neighboring granite quarries, business and economic interests were varied. There was copper mining in the Green Mountain area (actually in Mariposa County) and lumbering at Sugar Pine. Raymond was the terminus of a branch line of the Southern Pacific Railroad which left the main line at Berenda. Hence passengers and freight were funnelled into the mountains through Raymond, and transportation was furnished by the four-horse stages and ten and twelve mule teams. Destinations might be Sugar Pine, Yosemite Valley, or other places.

Some noteworthy events well remembered by Raymond citizens included the visit in 1903 of President Theodore Roosevelt (and John Muir) as they passed through enroute to Yosemite Valley. In 1904-1905, people were thrilled by the appearance of a comet (probably Encke's) and in 1910 Halley's comet was visible for a considerable period of time. Raymondites claimed that they "felt" the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The U. S. Cavalry guard for Yosemite Valley, sent from Monterey Presidio, passed through Raymond annually until the practice ceased in 1916.

Following his service at Knowles, Mr. Smale moved to Oakhurst, then called Fresno Flats; the school district was called "Fresno," in no way to be confused with the city of that name. After Fresno came the Daulton and Talbot Schools, then Hawkins. This was a small school in a lumbering area; it was situated between Coarse Gold and Fresno Flats. Fortunately some of the pupils in this school can be remembered sufficiently to make up a roster, as follows: Lawrence Fhy, Martha ("Mattie") Fhy, Mary Fhy, Ida Graham, Dick Johes, Emma Jones, Grace Jones, Mary Jones, Ruby Jones, Grace Lewis, Lottie Miller, Reed Miller, Harold Norcross, Elgie Reynolds, Grace Reynolds, Josie Serpa, Manuel Serpa, Gerald Smale, John Smale, Mary ("Tottie") Smale, Robert Smale, Dewey Speckerman, and Herb Watts.

It could be said that the service at Hawkins represented the twilight of Mr. Smale's teaching career. After attending the National Education Association convention in San Francisco, he did not teach during the fall of 1911. In addition to caring for a particularly abundant crop on his ranch during the summer, it was necessary to move the family to Berkeley in August. The move was made to take advantage of better educational facilities required, since one son was ready to enter the university, and three others to attend high school. During the spring of 1912 Mr. Smale taught at the Canyon School in Yolo County, near Tancred. This was the only break in his educational service to Madera County from 1896 until his retirement. His final three years were spent in the Fresno (Fresno Flats) District, and the official record shows that his appointment as Postmaster in Raymond occurred in the spring of 1915, the official date being March 9 of that year.

"Schoolmarms" in a whimsical moment. Photo dated 1900 at Knowles School. Persons identified by names on rear blackboard: Alice Mary Watkins, Estella Bagnelle (County Superintendent), David "Davie" Lockton (teacher at Raymond School), Georgia Gazzola, Margaret Coyle, "Katie" Smale (error, her name was Elizabeth), J. G. "Jack" Smale wielding the symbol of authority. It is presumed that Jane Wallis took the photo. Note equipment and "appointments" of a 1900 classroom! (Photo courtesy of Mrs. J. W. Haynes)

IV - MADERA COUNTY EDUCATOR: THE MAN

An historical record, no matter how meticulously reported, may present only the actions of the persons involved in it. To get the true picture of what those persons were like, one must go beyond the record to the opinions of contemporaries, and to those small nuances of behavior which reveal the personality in fairly sharp focus. What was the Madera County educator like in the years of J. G. Smale's service? In what ways was he typical and in what different from his contemporaries?

The educator of the 1890's and early 1900's was not a highly salaried person. For example, Mr. Smale's salary at Salida (Stanislaus County) was $85 per month, on a nine-month basis. He was offered an "attractive" school principalship in Modesto for $80 per month. At no time in his career was Mr. Smale paid more than $100 per month. Considering the purchasing power of the dollar in 1900 compared with that of today, this was not as bad as it may appear. However, one could assume that it was a struggle to rear a family of six children on this income. No doubt the income from the ranch helped here. The modern educator observes among these pioneer people a lack of concern for any kind of tenure law. In his Madera County career Mr. Smale made eight different moves. His longest term was at Knowles, for six years. Even a cursory inspection of the roll calls at teachers institutes reveals that most of these people were "on the move," year after year. Possibly the exceptions were those who taught in cities like Madera. In retrospect it would be helpful to know why this gravitation from district to district took place. Were the reasons financial, disciplinary, poor working conditions, or simply that school teaching had not yet reached the professional status and dignity it was to achieve, belatedly, in the mid-twentieth century?

Nevertheless these teachers did show a professional concern for their pupils. The 1897 Teachers' Institute Minutes report that Dr. Finley spoke on "the responsibility of the teacher's position." Another topic discussed was the "Course of Study," and here is a quotation worthy of a television commercial: "Dr. Bray gave a short talk on 'The Care of Children's Teeth.' He thought that since many parents give the matter no attention, the teacher should endeavor to cultivate in the children habits of care for their teeth." (This was 1897, remember!) These and other minutes record a very definite concern for pupil welfare. In their professional gatherings, the teachers were really thinking about those for whose lives they were responsible.

Perhaps it was just as well that some concern was shown for the pupils as human beings. The curriculum prescribed in this era was well calculated to appeal only to the more scholarly. Schools were likely to comprise nine (instead of eight) grades; thus some typical high school subjects (algebra is a good example) were taught in the eighth and ninth grades. Mental Arithmetic was supposed to "supplement written arithmetic from first to seventh grades." Since county-wide written examinations were the order of the day, at least in the upper grades, the variety of "subjects" required can be illustrated by those for which examinations were prescribed. In the Madera County Historical Society's files are a number of these. Those "given" (in 1900) at the Eighth Grade level were: Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Civil Government, Colonial History, Composition, Grammar, History, Literature, Mensuration, Mental Arithmetic, Music, Penmanship, Physiology (and Hygiene), Spelling, and Word Analysis. One may wonder at the strong constitutions required to pursue such an invigorating curriculum; and may ponder also the prospects of the drop-out rate.

Just where did J. G. Smale fit into this educational picture? Was he like the others? Yes, of course; he too was a product of the post-Victorian era in all its ramifications. Yet there were differences. Fortunately a sufficient number of his former pupils survive to present their testimony. A few of these must suffice. Two from the Berenda years are Sylvester Brown of Fresno, and Madera resident Michael O'Meara. Mr. Brown, whose family at the time was farming a considerable acreage in the Berenda area, remembers him as a strict disciplinarian and very business-like instructor. "You got your grade," says Mr. Brown, "or he made you stay there until you did." Mr. O'Meara recalls that "he was quite severe, I thought, on the older boys; but he was always fair." Miss Mattie Fhy of Madera remembers the days at Hawkins, where her father operated the Lone Cedar Ranch. As a fifth-grader she was impressed by his "produce, or else! and no excuses accepted" attitudes; and reaffirms the image of the strict disciplinarian. These memories seem to coincide with his reputation of being able to "straighten out" schools where trouble had existed previously. Mr. Tom Jones, a trustee at Hawkins, is reputed to have expressed it this way: "We've got Smale, and by ---, we're going to keep him for a thousand years!" Whether this was actually said may be beside the point; it expresses a "current image." Mrs. Smale said sometimes that she thought him stricter on, and more likely to punish his <u>own</u> children before he did the others. The idea was, one suspects, that the teachers' children ought to be more exemplary and achieve nearer perfection. Regrettably the record indicates that the Smale children grew up to be no more or less human, and no more saintly, than their more infrequently spanked peers. Indeed, the testimony given above could be reinforced by the Smales, all of whom at some time in their lives, attended a school taught by their father. Mrs. Guy Crow of Madera was a pupil at Talbot during the year Mr. Smale taught there.

Yet the image of a strict and stern martinet seems not entirely in keeping with another side of J. G.'s personality. He could be a disciplinarian, but his sense of humor could turn him to the sheerest whimsy. Observe the accompanying photo at Knowles School. Here one may see a coterie of otherwise dignified people obviously "clowning" for the camera, and frankly enjoying it. Then there is the story with a jest at the expense of Miss Mayme Saunders. Later a distinguished member of the County Board of Education, in 1900 she taught at the Granite School; she roomed and boarded with the Smales. For some reason she called them "Samantha" and "Jeremiah." Finding it necessary to take a county examination to renew her certificate, she was in Madera struggling with one which, as it happened, Mr. Smale was proctoring. As he passed up the aisle beside her

desk, she whispered very sotto voce: "Jeremiah, who wrote Ramona?" J. G. did not pause in his stride, but said as he passed, "Go to Hell'n hunt for it!" Miss S. was very much miffed until, having handed in her paper, the light finally dawned! She had missed a golden opportunity! Even today's "paperback" reader knows that Helen Hunt Jackson wrote Ramona.

Mattie Fhy tells an experience at Hawkins representing the pixie which seemed occasionally to lurk just beneath the business-like surface. In a county-wide essay contest she won a $5 prize and a dictionary. Flushed with this success, she turned in her next written essay replete with five-dollar words laboriously searched from the pages of this new prize volume. She fully expected lavish praise for this effort. Her bubble was pierced when the only mark on the paper was a curt "100." But on the very back page, penned precisely in red ink, was this notation: "In promulgating your esoteric convolutions, avoid platitudinous ponderosities." At a later time Mattie said he confessed having seen this written on the wall in the railroad depot at Toronto. This seems to prove that modern intellectuals, pseudo or otherwise, have no cause to brag about the originality of their graffiti.

Educationally, one can discern Mr. Smale as something of an organization man. While in Modesto he seems to have attended institutes in Fresno in company with Thomas Downey, another young schoolman in Stanislaus County, after whom Downey High School in Modesto is named. His first institute in Madera County found him on the "Introduction Committee" - obviously one way to get acquainted. He joined in endorsing (February 15, 1897 minutes) the formation of a San Joaquin Valley Teachers' Association, which had been temporarily organized in Fresno. In 1901 the minutes report "Mr. J. G. Smale spoke to the institute, urging the teachers to gain in professional interest by joining the San Joaquin Valley Teachers' Association" Unfortunately the minutes do not record the number who joined as a result of this "pitch;" it appears to have been followed on the program by a vocal solo entitled Forgotten.

Finally, when one looks at his teaching quite specifically, Mr. Smale's work showed evidence of sound planning and careful preparation, as well as an interest in current affairs. In one of his workbooks (before the days of ditto duplicators and "Copy-Mates") are found sample pupil exercises and drills, evidently performed according to written or dictated instructions. In another instance, they were asked to "write sentences about" such business firms as "The Raymond Granite Company, The Madera Sugar Pine Company, The Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company, The San Joaquin Light and Power Company, and The Madera Flume and Trading Company." Readers will recognize these as names of then current and important business organizations of special interest to the economic development of Madera County. Also quoted in full, in the Exercise Book, was H. W. Longfellow's The Herons of Elmwood, a poem previously unknown to the writer. Of course it will be seen that the materials were related to some standardized course of study, but the teacher appears to have exercised a considerable flexibility of selection.

Thus, Mr. Smale may be pictured as typical of the "schoolmarm" for the era in which he served; but, as might be expected, he had personal strengths and personality characteristics which set him apart from all the others.

V - MADERA COUNTY: ACTIVE CITIZEN

J. G. Smale was appointed Postmaster of the Raymond Post Office in 1915. Although his son C. C. Smale succeeded to the office for a year (1917 - 1918), the elder Smale reassumed and held the position until about 1927. His official reappointment dates were February 11, 1919; January 9, 1924; and August 13, 1924. These were either four-year terms, or "at the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States." During this tenure the office was variously of the third or fourth class; in any event, it was a distribution point for mail dispatched via "star routes" including those to Ben Hur,

Mist (i. e., Bailey Flat), Knowles, Grub Gulch, Ahwahnee and Wawona. Among the concessionaires who operated these was Timothy J. Cronin, a longtime Supervisor from the district; H. A. Philp was another.

Mr. Smale's interest in politics was not only well known but widely respected; he loved to "talk politics." Always active in the Democratic Party, he served as a member of the County Central Committee for several terms. Mr. Edward Boyle, Secretary of the Committee in 1970, reports that records for this early era no longer are kept, hence the exact dates are not available. In 1902 he made one attempt at election for a county-wide office: Tax Collector. He and several others ran against Charles Preciado in the Democratic Primary, but were literally "snowed under" by the popular young Madera businessman. Mr. Smale served on the County Board of Education, appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

He had a keen interest in lodge activities and in sports. Although the official record is obscure, it is well known that Mr. Smale was active in the Ancient Order of Foresters; the lodge headquarters were at Raymond and meetings were held in the upstairs rooms at the A. C. Shaw Telephone Building. Clair Smale remembers when J. G. was Chief Ranger and accompanied him to Mt. Bullion (in Mariposa County) on lodge business. Some readers may recall John Falconer, who was also an officer in this fraternal group. Mr. Smale joined Madera Lodge #327 I. O. O. F. on September 12, 1899, but there is no record to indicate that he was an officer in this organization. Always a man devoted to amateur sports, Mr. Smale seems to have preferred baseball to other games. He assisted in the formation and management of the Raymond (town) team, and enjoyed watching games played by the school children. It is not surprising that his son Robert became for a time a professional baseball player; both he and Clair were active in semi-pro ranks; and each later did a bit of coaching.

It is not too surprising either that the record shows J. G. Smale as a school trustee. For some five years he served on the board for the Raymond Granite Union High School District, 1921 - 1924 inclusive; during this period Craig Cunningham finished his service as County Superintendent, and was followed by Meta Neal (Mrs. Leland) Footman. Other board members were: E. L. McCapes, F. W. Krohn, James R. Reid, Dr. Elizora B. Allen, and Joe Terragno. Later he was a trustee of the Raymond Elementary District, 1930 - 1932. The County Superintendent then was W. L. Williams, while other trustees were Cyril Wilton and Mrs. A. C. Shaw.

The later years were spent partly in Berkeley and in Raymond. The family had acquired property at 3007 Fulton Street in the former city in 1921. None of the Smale children returned to Madera County to live permanently. Thus from the mid-1930's until 1941, Mr. Smale stayed in Raymond only intermittently. In December 1941, he and Mrs. Smale celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Mr. Smale passed away in October 1945, in his eighty-first year. Mrs. Smale lived until October 1960. Her death came at age ninety-four. All six children survive.

VI - THE SMALE FAMILY

John and Elizabeth Smale were the parents of six children, four boys and two girls. Three were born in Modesto, one in Berenda, and two in Raymond.

C. Clair Smale, born in Modesto, was educated in Madera County schools. He went to Toronto, Canada, where he received his high school education. After attending the University of California (Berkeley) he entered the postal service. From 1946 until his retirement in 1962, he was Assistant Postmaster in Fresno. He had two sons by his first wife, the former Jane Ninnis of Raymond. One son, Bob, died in World War II; the other, Glenn, resides in Santa Rosa with his wife Doris, and three daughters. C. C. Smale remarried and now lives in Santa Rosa.

Queene Maude Smale, also born in Modesto, now lives in San Rafael. Her husband, the late James W. Haynes, died following service in World War II. Queene graduated from Madera High School and received her college training at Fresno Normal (now Fresno State College). She is the first graduate in Women's Physical Education from that institution, class of 1918. After graduate study, she taught in Paso Robles and Oakland Public Schools. Her son, James W., is a shipping executive who lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife Virginia and two children.

First photo taken of the Smale children in Madera County. Robert, Clair, Queene, Mary ("Tottie"). Photo taken in 1899. (Courtesy of Mrs. J. W. Haynes)

Mary Elizabeth "Tottie" Smale, was born in Modesto. She too was educated in Madera County schools. After high school she entered training in the field of nursing and received her R. N. from Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley. She married, and lives in San Leandro with her husband H. D. Johnson, a retired bank executive. They have two children. Herbert G. and his wife have two children and live in Ventura. Doris is married to Robert Coursey and they live with two daughters in Carmichael.

Robert Andrew Smale, born in Berenda, was educated in Madera County schools, and graduated from Oakland Technical High School where he was prominent in athletics. He played professional baseball for several years, then entered the field of banking. He retired from the Crocker-Citizens Bank organization several years ago, and resides in Oakland. His wife, the former Margaret McNalley, died in 1968. There are two children. Dianne is married to William Walter, an Oakland attorney, and they have three children. Robert C. is a musician: pianist and featured soloist on the Lawrence Welk show. He, his wife Mary, and two children live in Woodland Hills, California.

Gerald Orme "Fritz" Smale, was born in Raymond and went to schools in Madera County. While a high school student, he enlisted in the United States Army and during World War I served at the Mounted Service School, Fort Riley, Kansas; followed by Officers' Training School at Camp Lee, Virginia. After the war he was in business in the San Francisco Bay area. In World War II he saw service as Fire Prevention Inspector for the Sixth Army Base, Oakland, where he retired in 1965. He and his former wife, Vilma Nielsen (now deceased) had one daughter, Jean. She and her husband, Kenneth Parks, live in Nashua, New Hampshire. Gerald has remarried and lives in Pine Grove, California.

John Gerrard Smale (Jr.), also was born in Raymond. Educated in Madera County schools, he graduated from Oakland Technical High School, and matriculated at the University of California (Berkeley), where, in succession, he earned the A. B., M. A., and Ph. D. degrees. He taught in Fresno High School for 16 years, then joined the faculty at Chico State College, where he was a professor of Economics. He retired in 1968. In 1932, he married the former Virginia Scott of Verbena, Alabama. They have one daughter, Elizabeth, married to Lawrence E. Carlson, a high school teacher, and living with their three children in Belmont, California.

Children of John and Elizabeth Smale
Standing, l. to r.: Gerald, Mary ("Tottie"), Queene, Clair, and John. Seated: Robert.
(Photo taken February 24, 1968 by Robert C. Smale)

The above account was written by John G. Smale, who gratefully acknowledges assistance from many persons. Maud Lindemann and Guy Crow placed the files of the Historical Society at his disposal. Mr. Sylvester Brown, Mr. Michael O'Meara, and Miss Mattie Fhy gave interviews. The Smale family furnished factual information, as well as family photos. Mrs. John Smale did much of the secretarial work, and was a constructive critic and good companion in the endeavor.

Compiled by Maud Lindemann,
Curator

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